

and up-to-date book which has been written on the subject. A tremendous amount of information has accumulated on the subject and it is good to have it assembled in an orderly way so that the "lay" doctor or student not specializing in the field may gain access to it.

In this field of medicine, appropriate pursuit of therapy requires a rational approach based upon the use of measurements, made in the chemical and physiological laboratory. In dealing with the complex problems with which this volume is concerned, there is little place for medical intuition which makes but a meager showing in the "race" of modern medicine. One will find this book valuable whether one's interest be disturbances of heart, kidneys, lungs, or liver; toxemia of pregnancy or diarrhea of the newborn; neuro or abdominal postsurgical care; diabetes mellitus or the use of corticoids; glaucoma or periodic paralysis. The information available in this book should be of great value to the physician in improving medical care.

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MEDICAL PROBLEMS OF OLD AGE—A. N. Exton-Smith, M. A., M.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P., Physician Whittington Hospital, London. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol. Distributed in U.S.A. by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 331 pages, \$7.00.

Healthy old age should be a normal process of involution free from morbid change. The approach to the maintenance of health requires an understanding of the influences which promote it, as well as the investigation of factors concerned with the development of disease and the possibilities of their amelioration. The assessment of health and of disease should be made on functional capabilities rather than on structural changes or disorders of metabolism.

Dr. Exton-Smith is concerned with the maintenance and restoration of these functional capabilities in aged people. He writes with sympathy, insight and knowledge of his subjects. He has gathered together the facts known about the symptoms, signs, diagnosis and treatment of the aged and produced a complete yet still small volume.

The first 100 pages are probably the most valuable. In these he discusses the clinical implications of aging, the principles of diagnosis, practical consideration in home care, principles of rehabilitation in the elderly and particularly in hemiplegia, and other problems in medical and nursing care.

The last 10 chapters, comprising some 215 pages, cover the problems of surgical and medical illness in more or less conventional form.

The reviewer is impressed by the knowledge and sympathy of the author. Functional rehabilitation of the patient is stressed as an end result even more than care of the disease. The entire book is recommended to students and practicing physicians. The first part can also be of great use to nursing home operators, social service workers and others in auxiliary medical professions, as well as the physicians.

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CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY—Studies in Physiology, Diagnosis and Techniques—Henry Ford Hospital, International Symposium—Edited by Conrad R. Lam, M.D., Surgeon-in-Charge, Division of Thoracic Surgery, Henry Ford Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 543 pages, \$12.75.

This impressive volume provides in palatable form for easy readability the most recent advances in cardiac surgery discussed at length at an International Symposium on Cardiovascular Surgery held under the auspices of the Ford Hospital at Detroit in March, 1955. Participating in the discussions

were such eminent cardiac surgeons as Sir Russell Brock of Guy's Hospital, London, Clarence Crafoord of Stockholm, Charles Dubost of Paris, John Lind of Stockholm, Charles Rob of London, and Sondergaard of Copenhagen besides a host of eminent American surgeons and internists. Individual presentations numbered 31 covering such topics of general interest as cardiac catheterization, angiocardiology, evaluation of transposition operations, the surgical treatment of mitral stenosis and mitral insufficiency, and of aortic stenosis and aortic insufficiency. Panel discussions permitted contributions from many sources on such varied subjects as the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonic stenosis and of interatrial septal defects; the late results of mitral commissurotomy; the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of inducing hypothermia; and finally an evaluation of the available substitutes for arterial segments.

Lillehei and associates presented their brilliant successes with crossed circulation in the repair of interventricular septal defects, isolated infundibular pulmonic stenosis, tetralogy of Fallot, and atrioventricularis communis. It is highly probable that direct intracardiac surgery with the aid of hypothermia and extracorporeal circulations of various types will undergo a rapid development in the next year or two.

No one interested in cardiovascular diagnosis and the present status of cardiovascular surgery can afford to be without this volume of varied and specific information on many subjects of interest to internist and surgeon alike.

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THE THYROID—A Fundamental and Clinical Text—Edited by Sidney C. Werner, M.D., Sc.D. (Med.), Editor. With Sixty Contributors. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Department of Harper & Brothers, New York, 1955. 789 pages, \$20.00.

Almost encyclopedic, as its length might indicate, this book has been made quite readable with the material divided into many small sections with frequent subtitles. These headings and the indexing make this book simple to use for reference work.

Ordinarily one might be discouraged at the thought of sixty contributors for fear of contradiction and reduplication. The editing of the material has been a monumental work, and the book does read as if by one author. There are many references for the most part 1952-53 or earlier; this suggests a considerable delay in publication which is understandable in view of the tremendous editing task. Some recent work is presented however such as the lack of inhibition of I^{131} uptake by exogenous thyroid substance in Grave's disease in contrast to the normal gland, which might prove of practical importance in the diagnosis of hyperthyroidism.

The book is divided into three parts, the first on the physiology and anatomy of the normal gland, the second on laboratory methods and the third, which makes up three-fourths of the book, on diseases of the thyroid. Hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism are in part covered in a detailed review of body systems of the two conditions. There are introductory comments in some sections by the editor and frequent summaries at the end of the chapters aid in quick appraisal of the material.

With the multiple contributors, new editions might be expected to appear at frequent intervals keeping the material up to date. This book will probably be the standard text on thyroid disease for some time to come. It should be available to all having contact with the thyroid—surgeons, physicians, physiologists and laboratory workers.